Companies	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Joint Ventures/Private Companies			
Target	4.65	4.69	5.15
Achievements	4.55	4.83	5.08

(b) The estimated annual expenditure on exploration made by ONGC, OIL and Private/JV companies from 2004-05 to 2007-08 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Prov.)
ONGC	31301.63	46225	49135.81
OIL	2013.10	2297.70	2633.52
Private/JV companies	31200.00	79800.00	140440.00

(c) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities to meet our maximum requirement from indigenous sources, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(viii) Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

Setting up Petrol Pumps in Uttar Pradesh

4262. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps set up/opened on the National Highways/State Highways in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise including the current financial year;

(b) whether the target so fixed by the Central Government to open/to set up new petrol pumps in Uttar Pradesh has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and by when the target is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) During the last three years, *i.e.*, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have opened 247 Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships on National Highways/State Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The year-wise details are as under:

Year	Number of ROs
2005-06	114
2006-07	74
2007-08	59

(b) to (d) Subsequent to the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) *w.e.f.* 1.4.2002, OMCs have freedom to choose locations for opening of RO dealerships as per their commercial considerations and select the dealers in accordance with the objective and transparent guidelines framed by them. Government have no direct role in the allotment of RO dealerships by OMCs.

Recruitment of GTs on ONGC

4263. SHRI PRAVEEN RASTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the method of making direct recruitment of Graduate Trainee (G.T.) Batch Officers in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC);

(b) how many G.T. Batch Officers were recruited during 1999 to 2007, year-wise, region-wise; and

(c) what is the monthly salary paid to such officers on recruitment during 2001 to 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In ONGC all Graduate Trainee (GT) officers are recruited through All India Open Competition comprising of written test and interview.

In its efforts to recruit the best and in view of the talent crunch, the Company also goes in for campus recruitment in prestigious and reputed institutes to select outstanding candidates.

(b) Details of GT batch Officers recruited during 1999—2007 are as under:—

Year	No. of GTs recruited
1999	292
2000	72
2001	232
2002	61
2003	359